

We have all been moved by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and we must now all pull together to help those who are facing the greatest challenges in their attempts to recover and respond to Katrina's wake. In times of hardship, Americans come together to help each other. Time is of the essence, and each of us must do what we can to respond to this natural catastrophe.

Once the deadly threat posed by Hurricane Katrina became apparent, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI publicly called for a special session of Congress to get to work and send relief to the victims struggling in the Gulf Coast. I was pleased that Republican leadership finally answered Leader PELOSI's call and convened the U.S. Congress to pass a \$10.5 billion emergency supplemental spending bill for the people suffering in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Today we will pass an additional \$51.8 billion in the Second Emergency Supplemental for Hurricane Katrina. While these funds are much needed they are coming before us today on the suspension calendar which does not allow us adequate time for debate or an opportunity to add important amendments. Hurricane Katrina is clearly the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, and we are missing the opportunity to address some critical issues, such as creating a commission to investigate the federal response to this disaster and making FEMA an independent agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must provide leadership in helping those displaced by the hurricane to rebuild their lives and communities out of the wreckage left in Katrina's wake. In the weeks and months ahead, Congress will consider additional spending measures to aid victims of the hurricane. As Americans, we have pulled together through tragedies in the past, and I know that we will demonstrate that same unity in overcoming the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as you know, on the afternoon of September 7th, I was in New York at the United Nations formally thanking the international delegates on behalf of the House of Representatives for their support and assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Over 90 countries have offered to help us recover from this natural disaster, and I was privileged to have the opportunity to thank the international community on your behalf.

As a result of my presentation in New York, I was unfortunately unable to be present for two recorded votes that day. Had I been present, I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3169, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster. I likewise would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3650, to allow United States courts to conduct business during emergency conditions.

THE NEW ORLEANS CRIME VICTIMS DESERVE COMPENSATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of those who demand a more detailed legislative effort. Official criminal neglect is the crime of New Orleans. First response neglect is the immediate and short-term crime. Our government should've responded faster with more. Long-term crime caused by partisan politics, the greed of powerful selfish legislators who lack compassion, the looting of billions from the Federal treasury for the wrong reasons, the institutionalized prejudices against big cities; all of these evils have festered over the years to produce the highly visible, horrifying gangrene of the New Orleans disaster.

Congress and the President deserve high praise for the emergency appropriations. But this allotment is for the weeks and months ahead. On day one of this disaster the U.S. already had all of the resources necessary to achieve the safer, faster and more thorough rescue of the desperate population of New Orleans. Criminal incompetence and some contempt for the stranded population blocked the perceptions of how to speedily mobilize resources. In 1940 at Dunkirk, under heavy fire from German forces, more than 300,000 British troops were rescued and ferried back to England. Success was achieved because Winston Churchill immediately understood the gravity of the situation and called for the mobilization of every vehicle that could float. The crime and the pity is that all of the helicopter and naval craft marvels of our military were not immediately ordered to blanket the flooded neighborhoods of New Orleans.

Decades of debate and refusals to seriously address an obviously dangerous set of circumstances facing one of America's great cities is the long-term crime at the heart of this involuntary manslaughter. For decades Washington refused to finance state of the art technology to lessen the dangers of flooding in New Orleans. In recent years the Bush administration has compounded the problem by cutting already inadequate budgets.

Since we refused to shield this crime victim from the life-threatening assault that has now been perpetrated, the bleeding New Orleans deserves maximum compensation. The Hurricane Katrina emergency appropriation is a promising beginning. To accomplish its purpose the provisions of the legislation must be expanded to include the following:

The establishment of a Right of Resettlement for all who want to return.

The immediate establishment of an Emergency Free Communications Network with cell phones for all refugee families.

The establishment of a Job Corps for able bodied refugees which mandates their priority hiring for jobs related to the cleanup and rebuilding.

The establishment of Faith and Community Based Family Resettlement Projects to assist in the relocation of refugee families.

The establishment of Family Resettlement Accounts for families who wish to relocate to some other part of the country.

The establishment of an Emergency College Student Temporary Resettlement Program utilizing Colleges that volunteer to receive students, faculty and administrators.

The provision of Impact School Aid for school districts where large numbers of refugee families are located.

A mandatory review and revamping of the Corps of Army Engineers Master Plan for New Orleans.

A federally funded initiative to establish "Fail Safe" Committees in local communities.

In summary, Congress must act immediately to specify how the Hurricane Katrina appropriation will be spent. There is a clear and present danger that billions will be contracted out to Haliburton type corporations and refugees will receive only a very meager benefit. We members of Congress must remain vigilant to guarantee that no more official crimes will be perpetrated against New Orleans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues from Virginia, Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey to introduce legislation recognizing the importance of a national memorial at the Pentagon to commemorate and mourn the terrorist attack against the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

This legislation is modeled after a resolution (H. Res. 175) my friend and colleague from New York introduced earlier this year in support of efforts to create a September 11, 2001 memorial at the site of World Trade Center.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 4th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, it is appropriate that we establish memorials at the sites of these attacks to honor the victims.

On that fateful day four years ago, the 59 victims of American Airlines Flight 77 and 125 military personnel and Defense Department employees at the Pentagon died and scores more were injured in a dastardly and unprovoked attack against the American people.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have joined the pantheon of national tragedies and become a defining moment in United States history.

These attacks of September 11, 2001 affected all Americans, not only for the tragic loss of life, but also for its emotional toll on our public conscience. Two-thirds of Americans report that the attacks had a great emotional impact on them, and virtually all Americans can recall precisely where they were and what they were doing when they learned of the attacks.

And while all of us were beset by the tragic loss of life and untold suffering, we found solace in the inspiring and heroic actions taken by the crew and passengers of Flight 93 and by the firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, military personnel and ordinary citizens who raced to the scene of these attacks and saved lives, keeping the attacks from taking an even greater toll.

It was a tragic day, but a defining moment in our nation's history.

I applaud the efforts of those who have worked to build the memorials to honor and

commemorate the fallen and to acknowledge the impact the horrific attacks have had on all of us.

I encourage my colleagues and those listening to support these memorials and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE YWCA
PASADENA-FOOTHILL VALLEY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley upon its 100th anniversary.

In 1905, a group of prominent Pasadena women formed a branch of the National Consumers League in an effort to hold local employers accountable to statewide labor laws for young working women. As affordable housing for these young women became a concern, this same group formed the Young Women's League and provided rental housing for working women. This was the start of what was to become, in 1909, the Pasadena Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA. In 1910, they purchased a property in Pasadena and in the 1920s, hired Julia Morgan, California's first woman architect, to design the landmark building on that same land.

During the First World War, the YWCA offered Red Cross training and classes in the arts to young working women, while actively rallying for women's suffrage and better working conditions for California's migrant workers. In the 1920s, the YWCA made special outreach efforts to include African-American and Japanese-American girls.

During the Great Depression, the YWCA offered loans and free room and board to women in need, and opened new clubs for Mexican-American and African-American girls. Ahead of its time, the YWCA Board agreed that "the use of facilities be based on general fitness without reference to race, religion, or nationality."

In 1940 a Japanese Girls Reserve was formed. When the war ended, the YWCA assisted in facilitating the interned Japanese-Americans' return to the community. During these years, the Pasadena YWCA, with its active social conscience, led the community on issues such as juvenile delinquency, housing, childcare and discrimination.

In the 1940s and 50s, programs that targeted delinquent teens and a childcare nursery were developed. The 1960s saw the Back Yard Mothers Project, the Mexican Bi-Cultural Club, the Pasadena Free Clinic, and in 1966, the Federal Government selected the Pasadena YWCA as the site for its Job Corps girls program.

The 1970s and 80s brought a Rape Advocacy Program, a program to train women for non-traditional jobs that paved the way for the Women at Work program, and Hestia House, a shelter for women and their children in crisis. In 1996, the YWCA Board sold the historic Julia Morgan building, moved into administrative offices, but continued to meet the needs of girls and women, never forgetting its mission to work for the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism.

Today, programs like Just for Girls meet on school campuses and offer assistance to at-

risk youth and the sports program brings together girls from varied economic and ethnic backgrounds. The YWCA hosts the annual Week Without Violence and an annual Racial Justice Committee Breakfast.

I am proud to recognize the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley for its 100 years of offering a diverse place of acceptance to the women of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the YWCA for their remarkable achievements.

STATEMENT ON HURRICANE
KATRINA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the people in the Gulf Coast area who have been so profoundly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The loss of lives, property, and livelihoods is a shocking tragedy, the full extent of which is only starting to be known.

The number one priority now must be safeguarding and improving the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people who have been evacuated from their homes, or whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. We must ensure that all people affected by this disaster have food, water, shelter, clothing, and healthcare. To achieve this, the government must commit to fast tracking needed public services like unemployment insurance and compensation, food stamps and Medicaid. In addition, we must be prepared to provide ongoing support through housing loans, job information networks, and aid to school districts that will enroll evacuated students. These measures are critical in helping people as they start to put their lives back together.

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina was compounded by a sluggish response by the Federal Government that trapped people in harm's way, and failed to provide them with the basic necessities of food and water. I believe that the Department of Homeland Security and the President must ultimately account for the failure in preparing for this disaster in an efficient and comprehensive manner. As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am dedicated to finding solutions to the systemic problems in DHS, as evidenced by its weak initial relief efforts in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the substantial problems that plagued the relief effort, the rescuers on the ground performed 47,300 life-saving rescues, and managed to find shelter for 235,200 people whose homes were damaged or destroyed. As the first responders continue working in the Gulf Coast, our thoughts and good wishes, and those of the entire Nation are with them. In Orange County, CA, I am proud to say our communities are doing their part. There are numerous efforts to assist the people affected by this disaster. Mr. Frank Garcia of the La Casa Garcia of Anaheim and volunteers from Orange County, CA, are traveling right now to Texas to set up a kitchen to help feed the evacuees. I am confident that the generosity of the American people will continue and grow. We have all been touched by the pain and shock of this disaster. And I hope

that this outpouring of support and solidarity will help the people of the Gulf Coast to rebuild their lives and give them hope for a better future.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 3673, MAKING
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2005

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this ill-considered \$51.8 billion disaster relief appropriation. Many have come to the floor today to discuss how we must help the victims of this terrible disaster and its aftermath. But why do they think that the best way to do so is simply to write a huge check to the very government agency that failed so spectacularly? This does not make sense. We have all seen the numerous articles detailing the seemingly inexcusable mistakes FEMA made—before and after the hurricane. Yet, in typical fashion, Congress seems to think that the best way to fix the mess is to throw money at the very government agency that failed.

Mr. Speaker, considering the demonstrated ineptitude of government on both the Federal and State level in this disaster, the people affected by the hurricane and subsequent flood would no doubt be better off if relief money was simply sent directly to them or to community organizations dedicated to clean-up and reconstruction. Indeed, we have seen numerous examples of private organizations and individuals attempting to help their fellow Americans in so many ways over the last 10 days, only to be turned back by FEMA or held up for days by government red tape. We have seen in previous disasters how individuals and non-governmental organizations were often among the first to pitch in and help their neighbors and fellow citizens. Now, FEMA is sending these good Samaritans a troubling message: stay away, let us handle it.

In several disasters that have befallen my Gulf Coast district, my constituents have over and over again told me that they prefer to rebuild and recover without the "help" of Federal agencies like FEMA, which so often impose their own bureaucratic solutions on the owners of private property.

Mr. Speaker, we see here once again the Federal Government attempting to impose a topdown solution to the disaster. No one is questioning from where this \$52 billion will come. The answer, of course, is that the Federal Government is going to simply print the money up. There are no reductions in Federal spending elsewhere to free up this disaster aid. Rather, the money will come from a printing press. The economic devastation created by such a reckless approach may well be even more wide-reaching than the disaster this bill is meant to repair.

I ask my colleagues to consider more constructive ways to help New Orleans and the other affected areas recover from this tragedy. There are numerous approaches, such as the creation of no-tax enterprise zones, that would attract private enterprise and capital to the area and would result in a much quicker and more responsive recovery. The citizens of the